

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 have been rejected. Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 12 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments. Applicants believe the following amendments place the claims in condition for allowance.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 10 and 19 may at least be found at page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 5 of the specification, and in the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.P.A.P. 2004/0086635A1 to Grossklaus, Jr. et al. in view of U.S.P.N. 6,387,541 to Gray et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 11, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossklaus, Jr. et al. and Gray et al. in view of U.S.P.N. 6,173,491 to Goodwater et al.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.P.A.P. 2004/0086635A1 to Grossklaus, Jr. et al. in view of U.S.P.N. 6,387,541 to Gray et al.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to recite performing a heat treating step after laser cladding the replacement section to the article and performing a second heat treating step after removing excess material from the replacement section. Neither Grossklaus nor Gray teach, suggest or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to heat treat the replacement section twice as recited in Applicants amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection against claims 1, 3-10, 12-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 12-20, and 22-24.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 11, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossklaus, Jr. et al. and Gray et al. in view of U.S.P.N. 6,173,491 to Goodwater et al.

Claim 2 depends from amended independent claim 1. Claim 11 depends from amended independent claim 11. Claim 21 depends from amended independent claim 19.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to recite performing a heat treatment step after laser cladding the replacement section to the article and performing a second heat treatment step after removing excess material from the replacement section. Neither Grossklaus nor Gray teach, suggest or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to heat treat the replacement section twice as recited in Applicants amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Goodwater fails to correct the deficiencies present in Grossklaus and Gray. Goodwater specifically teaches performing vacuum heat treatments prior to performing and optionally after performing a laser cladding step at col. 5, ll. 14-25 and 62-65. However, Goodwater does not teach performing heat treatment steps after performing laser cladding and after removing excess material from the replacement section as recited in Applicants amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection against claims 2, 11, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of claims 2, 11 and 21.

CONCLUSION

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to place all claims in this application in condition for allowance and respond to all issues set forth in the aforesaid Office action. If upon consideration of this response, the Examiner feels that any issues remain which could be disposed of by telephone interview, the undersigned respectfully requests and appreciates same.

It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this paper. If any fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

KENNY CHENG ET AL.

By 

Ross J. Christie

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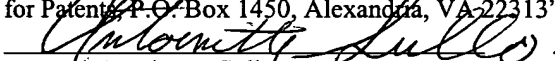
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Date: December 28, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 28, 2005


Antoinette Sullo